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Subject: oil spill update (Thursday)
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Today's activity has been on: Dispersants and Dioxin, and some related goings-on

Chemical Analysis of Dispersant:

The Las Vegas lab has finished their initial analyses of the near-shore seawater and "mousse" samples R6 sent Saturday. Analyses of the sea water samples did not detect dispersants. Analysis of the mousse indicated that there was a trace amount of one COREXIT 9500 component, but the detection was right at the instrument level-of-detection (~ 100 ng on-column). The lab is now conducting a repeat analysis that should provide confirmation of the presence or absence of the component. Note that the compound was detected very, very strongly in the lab analysis of the "pure" dispersant, so its detection at this very low level, coupled with the non-detect of other dispersant components, could be an indication of substantial dilution and/or degradation of the dispersants being applied at the spill site.

Comparison of Available Dispersants:

The NCCT and NHEERL labs are preparing to analyze the dispersant samples from the various manufacturers, and have developed a sampling approach and timeline. Some of the samples have arrived in RTP, but testing won't begin until all the expected samples have arrived, so that the dispersants will all be analyzed with the same test conditions, and the results will allow comparison of the dispersant properties. In addition, Gulf Breeze lab scientists have been assisting OEM by developing a statement of work for a contractor to conduct toxicology analyses of the dispersants, which they would like to access as soon as next week.

EcoSafe Dispersant Analysis:

Late last week the Administrator met with the representative of an innovative product, "EcoSafe," that seemed to have potential as a non-toxic dispersant. In very short order (overnight, on a weekend!) our NRMRL and NHEERL scientists thoroughly reviewed the supporting documentation, and found it to be lacking in reliable efficacy and toxicity information. The unique & innovative physical-chemical actions of the dispersant in oil were not substantiated by the test results. We forwarded our recommendation to OEM that any further EPA consideration of this product be conducted only after the product has been submitted, with all necessary supporting information, for consideration for the NCP product schedule and undergone that evaluation.

Dioxin:

NRMRL has drafted a testing plan for measuring dioxin in the off-shore burn plumes, using a remote controlled balloon. The balloon will be capable of hovering in the burn plume for a long enough period to collect the large volume of air needed to conduct a dioxin analysis.

Oil Spill Research Strategy:

Lek has asked Randy Wentzel to facilitate the development of an EPA Oil Spill Research Strategy, based on a study plan developed by Al and Cynthia. The plan would include resources of \$8 - 15M per year, some number of additional FTE, and would be a combination of grant and intramural programs. Randy has asked the

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